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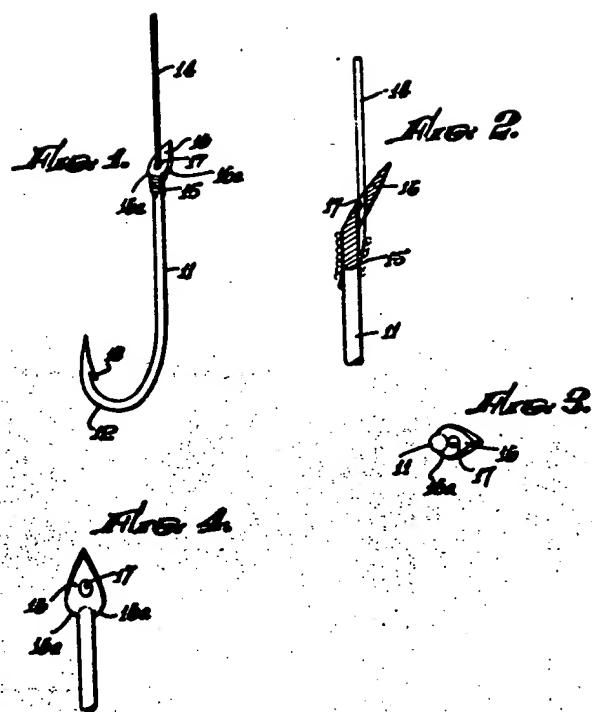
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1 SHEET

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

This drawing is a reproduction of
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PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Fish Hook

I, WILLIAM GEORGE RATHMANN, a citizen of the United States of America, of 5416 Bedford Street, Los Angeles, State of California, United States of America, do hereby declare

5 5 the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

10 10 The present invention relates generally to fish hooks and more especially, though not exclusively, to hooks of the type used for trout fishing.

15 15 It requires considerable experience and attention to detail to become a successful trout fisherman and it has been found that one of the most important factors in trout fishing is the elimination of anything that detracts from the natural appearance of the bait used. The presence near the bait of easily visible 20 20 objects, such as part of the hook, or light-reflective objects, such as a large knot, even though of light colored or transparent material, are all easily enough seen that the game fish is rendered suspicious and stays away from 25 25 the bait. For this reason, various precautions are commonly taken by fishermen. One of them is to cover the hook completely with the bait. Another one is to use a transparent leader or snell between the opaque line and the hook 30 30 itself, this leader being designed to be as inconspicuous as possible. Similarly, it is desirable to eliminate a large knot in the leader at a position anywhere near the hook.

35 35 The conventional type of hook most commonly used has an eye at one end of the shank which is formed by bending the shank into a circular ring. This eye is provided to render attachment of the leader to the hook as simple and easy as possible. While the eye makes it 40 40 possible to easily effect a connection between the leader and the hook, the eye is necessarily of such a size that it ordinarily destroys many types of bait. It is not possible to cover the eye by pulling a salmon egg or worm over the eye 45 45 because the distance across the ring is usually

[Price 4s. 6d.]

five or more times the shank diameter and the size of the eye is such as to tear the bait to the point where it can no longer completely conceal the hook. The presence of a knot in the leader at the eye only compounds the difficulty since it adds to the size of the structure over which the bait must pass.

50 50 In an effort to improve this situation, many experienced trout fisherman resort to snelling, that is, they connect the leader directly to the shank of the hook by wrapping the leader around the smooth shank. This eliminates a bulky knot at the eye and also places the accumulation of leader at a point where it is covered by the bait which at the same time conceals the hook.

55 55 Thus it becomes a general object of my invention to provide a fish hook designed especially for trout fishing which is capable of complete concealment within the bait and which has no large eye or other portion which is large enough to destroy the effectiveness of the bait in concealing the hook.

60 60 Another object of my invention is to provide a fish hook with which it is possible to eliminate a bulky knot at or near the hook, which, when unconcealed, is seen by the fish.

65 65 A further object of my invention is to provide a fish hook which not only does the least possible amount of damage to the bait, thus preserving its natural appearance as far as possible, but which is designed to hold the bait upon the shank in a position to completely conceal the hook.

70 70 A further object of my invention is to design a fish hook to which a leader can be attached in the field by the fisherman without the necessity of resorting to fastening means, such as glue or cement, which are not ordinarily available or practical under field conditions.

75 75 According to the invention there is provided a fish hook comprising a shank having a straight section around which a leader can be wrapped; a hook on one end of the shank;

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5 and an enlargement on the shank at the other end thereof to prevent the leader from slipping off, said enlargement comprising a flattened portion of the shank that is inclined upwardly and outwardly from the shank and has a 10 sharpened point to engage and hold bait covering the shank and prevent the bait from sliding down to expose the shank. I prefer to place an axially directed hole in this enlarged portion through which the leader can pass, the hole being so designed so as to avoid any cutting or abrading action on the leader.

10 My invention will be more readily understood by reference to the following description and to the annexed drawing, in which:

15 Fig. 1 is a side elevation of a fish hook embodying my invention, shown attached to a leader.

20 Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view showing the upper end of the shank and the enlargement thereon in section.

25 Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the hook in Fig. 1.

30 Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the upper end of the hook alone in Fig. 1.

35 Referring now to the drawing, especially to Figs. 1 and 2, there is shown a fish hook having a shank 11 on one end of which is hook 12 provided with barb 13, which may be of any suitable size. Shank 11 has a straight section to which the leader 14 may be attached by several turns of the leader around the shank, as indicated at 15.

40 The upper end of shank 11 terminates in a flattened enlargement 16 which is rather generally triangular or arrow shaped since it is preferred that the outer end of the enlargement 16 be sharpened to act as a barb engageable with the bait when pulled up over the enlargement. The flattened end is directed upwardly and outwardly so that upon engagement with the bait, the bait is held against sliding downwardly along the shank toward hook 12. To be most effective as a barb, the enlargement 45 16 is preferably inclined relative to the shank, as may be seen clearly in Fig. 2.

45 Ordinarily the leader is smaller than the shank, having a diameter approximately one-half the diameter of the shank of the hook, 50 or less if a very fine leader is used. However, assuming these typical values, the overall dimension of the turns around the shank, as indicated at 15, is approximately twice the diameter of the shank, usually somewhat less 55 but possibly slightly more. Consequently the

enlarged portion 16 has a maximum transverse dimension or width of about twice the diameter of the shank in order that it is not appreciably larger than the overall dimension of the turns 15. This size of the enlargement 60 is sufficient to form shoulders 16a at the lower end of the enlargement that perform the function of preventing the leader from sliding off the end of the hook and at the same time the increase in size is not great enough to break up or destroy the bait as it is slid over the shank.

65 As may be seen from the drawing, the arrow-shaped enlargement 16 is provided with an opening 17 which has its axis extending substantially parallel to the axis of the shank 11, the opening being offset from but preferably as close as possible, i.e. substantially tangential, to the shank. Opening 17 is 70 designed to receive the leader as it extends upwardly from the shank, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. This opening has the advantage that it is easier to make a secure connection between the leader and the hook when this hold 75 is present to guide and position the running end of the leader.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A fish hook comprising a shank having a straight section around which a leader can be wrapped; a hook on one end of the shank; and an enlargement on the shank at the other end thereof to prevent the leader from slipping off, said enlargement comprising a flattened portion of the shank that is inclined upwardly and outwardly from the shank and has a 80 sharpened point to engage and hold bait covering the shank and prevent the bait from sliding down to expose the shank.

85 2. A fish hook as claimed in claim 1 in which the flattened portion of the shank has a hole through which may pass the leader leaving the portion wrapped around the shank, the axis of the hole being substantially parallel to the axis of the shank.

90 3. A fish hook as claimed in claim 1 in which the hole is substantially tangential to the shank.

95 4. A fish hook substantially as described and as shown in the accompanying drawing.

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